

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
NISHIOKA et al.

Confirmation Number: 4064

Application No.: 09/957,471

Group Art Unit: 2873

Filed: September 21 2001

Examiner: Evelyn A. Lester

Title: OPTICAL APPARATUS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

Applicant confirms with appreciation the receipt of the Notice of Allowability for this application.

In reply to the Examiner's reasons for allowance in the Notice of Allowability mailed April 7, 2008 in this application, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of claimed combinations as a whole, without any particular criticality or distinguishing feature being attributable to any one or more of such features, and without any narrowing interpretation being imposed on any of such features. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart to or be required for patentability of the claims.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are all separately patentable from each other and are patentable for the subject matter specifically recited as a whole in each of those claims. Applicant also submits that the dependent claims are allowable for their dependence on the allowed independent claims and further for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



E. R. HERNANDEZ
Reg. No. 47641
Tel. No. 703.770.7788
Fax No.

Date: April 16, 2008
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900